

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action claims 4 and 20, which were objected to with respect to matters of form, have now been cancelled. In addition, all of the remaining claims were rejected for obviousness in view of the disclosure of the cited Ochi, Hamasaki, and Chang patents. In response, sole independent Claim 17 has been amended in a manner which is believed to add patentable distinctions over the prior art for the reasons set forth below.

In accordance with amended Claim 17, the image reading apparatus has protruding urging portions for urging a transparent original against a plate, wherein those portions protrude in an out-of-image area in a width direction of the transparent original, for distance less than the depth of field of an imaging lens. By virtue of this construction the invention can provide the advantage that “expressive stress does not act on the transparent original thereby to prevent the damage of the original” (see Paragraph [0096] of the domestic publication US 2004/0057086 of the present case).

Referring now to the cited references, the Ochi patent, as shown in Fig. 6, has two film supporting rollers 75 and 76 that are cylindrical, and the entire area of a film in a width direction of the film touches the rollers, so that in Fig. 5 the entire area of the film in its width direction is pressed on an original placement plane 18. In the Chang patent, the entire area of a light permeable face 22 is used as an urging portion so that the entire face of an image area of a film is pressed on a glass window 15. Moreover, the Hamasaki patent discloses a copying machine in which a rod lens array is used as required in Claim 17.

However, none of these references disclose or suggest the feature of the present invention that a plurality of protruding urging portions are disposed at positions corresponding to an out-of-image area in a width direction of the transparent original.

As a result, the present invention is believed to be patentably distinct over the cited references, as expressed in the related claims, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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